4: Lewis N-5 (ca. 1906-1918) 1919
AX5 Vedda AX5

133 while the Wila-oya and Kulapan-oya convey the waters from the eastern limits of the Buttala-Wedirata to the sea through the Panawa Pattu.

The chief mountains are Wadinagala (2,414 ft.), "Westminster Abbey" (1,830 ft.), Degalhella, Nilgala, Hibitalanagala, Kiripokunagala, "Chimney Hill," and Obbekota in the Monaragala range.

Most of these mountains rise abruptly from the plains below, and terminate in high masses of rock. There are, in some cases—particularly on the summit of "Westminster Abbey"—small patches of vegetation, but in the majority the summits of the more conspicuous hills are bare. The country described, therefore, may, broadly speaking, be considered as flat, broken by a few low undulations, the whole being dotted over irregularly with abrupt mountainous masses of rock.

132 The rainfall of this area is comparatively low, and probably does not exceed an average of 60 inches for the year, nearly the whole of which falls in the north-east monsoon, thus involving a period of extreme drought during the south-west monsoon, when for months there is not a drop of rain, followed by torrential showers of variable intensity and uneven distribution.

I am indebted to Mr. Balfour, the Director of Irrigation, for the details of rainfall at Ampari and Rotawewa,* well outside the area I refer to, and to the Surveyor-General† for the same particulars at Monaragala, these being given in tabular form in the Appendix.

137 As might be anticipated from such variation and extreme, it would follow that the vegetation of the country embraced must be, for the most part, what is called dry-zone flora, but other influences have to be considered in relation to distribution. These may be considered as being affected—

(*a*) By influence of streams rising in high altitudes, or in moister regions;
(*b*) By the operations of human beings;
(*c*) By animal transport of seed;
(*d*) By wind action.

* Appendix A. † Appendix B.

4:Lewis N-5 (ca. 1906-1918) 1919
AX5 Vedda AX5

●133

APPENDIX A.

AMPARAI RAINFALL.

	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.		1913.	
	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
January ..	—	—	12·23	7	4·97	8	4·32	7	10·36	15	4·85	9	17·70	13	8·82	11	2·24	6	50·06	28
February ..	—	—	2·75	3	0·09	1	1·58	4	7·59	6	7·00	8	4·01	11	2·71	6	0·81	2	7·73	12
March ..	—	—	0·00	0	1·21	4	5·40	5	8·53	8	2·64	4	0·00	0	1·45	2	4·77	6	2·02	5
April ..	—	—	7·41	10	0·53	3	4·72	8	4·37	6	1·77	2	1·07	3	0·00	0	2·52	7	2·80	7
May ..	—	—	5·63	8	1·13	3	1·08	3	1·31	2	0·86	3	1·09	6	1·90	2	1·44	5	0·53	3
June ..	—	—	2·49	7	2·00	3	4·48	4	0·00	0	0·89	1	0·20	3	1·33	4	6·93	4	0·05	1
July ..	—	—	0·10	1	5·66	7	0·23	2	2·55	3	0·00	0	3·18	9	1·69	1	0·03	2	0·76	4
August ..	—	—	3·03	6	8·24	9	3·38	5	2·20	7	5·31	8	5·38	13	7·35	5	2·82	4	1·35	4
September ..	—	—	2·85	4	3·51	5	1·27	5	3·20	9	2·70	6	5·78	9	9·30	10	6·74	5	1·36	3
October ..	—	—	2·02	8	10·84	10	6·52	13	7·11	17	9·56	16	14·66	17	10·41	17	7·32	19	12·17	15
November ..	—	—	23·15	19	10·82	22	9·61	13	9·06	11	4·24	12	11·58	12	22·90	24	12·18	16	11·90	19
December ..	—	—	5·08	10	9·30	9	3·50	5	24·92	25	7·79	19	21·95	19	32·91	24	14·72	19	33·99	19
Total ..	—	—	66·74	92	58·30	84	46·09	74	81·20	110	47·81	94	86·60	117	101·77	106	82·49	95	124·72	130

4:Lewis N-5 (ca. 1906-1918) 1919
AX5 Vedda AX5

132

ROZAWEWA RAINFALL.

	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.		1913.	
	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
January			4·00	1	3·71	6	6·57	8	9·85	14	6·03	7	32·93	18	5·92	9	5·27	4	58·55	24
February			3·94	3	0·52	1	0·45	4	9·77	7	3·00	4	0·83	3	0·43	3	0·80	3	11·43	8
March			0·00	2	2·17	2	4·26	5	8·83	8	3·81	6	1·95	5	0·32	2	3·15	2	6·49	5
April			0·66	1	1·42	2	4·62	6	1·32	2	3·86	6	1·66	5	0·00	1	2·75	3	0·00	1
May			10·36	12	0·63	1	0·51	1	5·95	8	3·49	6	0·95	3	0·33	2	4·89	4	0·00	1
June			1·87	4	0·00	0	1·88	3	0·00	0	0·00	0	0·33	1	0·15	1	1·50	2	0·00	0
July			0·00	0	1·79	4	0·35	1	0·54	1	1·33	3	0·00	0	0·64	2	0·00	0	0·79	1
August			0·37	1	3·76	7	1·00	2	1·06	3	0·11	1	1·40	3	1·24	3	0·63	1	0·61	1
September			0·17	1	0·60	1	0·47	1	6·25	9	0·00	0	2·36	5	4·56	7	4·29	5	0·39	1
October			6·80	17	6·18	10	9·32	10	4·10	6	3·17	6	6·92	6	2·99	7	5·48	14	8·29	8
November			24·53	17	11·06	16	11·08	12	3·21	11	4·74	6	8·80	6	20·83	23	6·61	15	6·47	12
December			0·49	11	0·84	8	4·39	6	10·34	15	3·86	10	20·47	14	23·73	22	15·44	16	28·52	15
Total	—	—	59·91	70	43·67	61	45·59	69	69·01	91	35·49	58	78·53	90	61·14	81	50·60	77	121·64	80

4:Lewis N-5 (ca. 1906-1918) 1919
AX5 Vedda AX5

APPENDIX B.

● 132

	Monaragala Hospital, 700 ft. altitude. Inches.	Mean for 15 Years. Inches.
January	3·13 ..	7·51
February	·26 ..	3·51
March	3·20 ..	3·78
April	15·07 ..	7·02
May	7·64 ..	8·48
June	1·23 ..	1·72
July	·70 ..	3·09
August	3·33 ..	3·72
September	2·47 ..	4·41
October	4·88 ..	12·72
November	8·74 ..	9·80
December	10·33 ..	10·15
Total	60·90* ..	70·91†

* 110 days for 1912. † 101 days.

APPENDIX C.

136 **List of Birds observed in the Vedda Country during July, 1914, giving Local Distribution.**

1. *Astur badius.* One seen at Guruhela.
2. *Accipiter* sp. (?). The Museum Collector obtained a ♀ Accipiter, which I am inclined to think is a new species to Ceylon. It was one of a pair that were engaged in building at the time it was shot. It possesses the characteristic long central toe, but in size it is much smaller than *A. nisus* or *A. virgatus*, with the breast boldly marked with dark smoke-brown streaks and blotches, and not barred. The second and third primaries also differ from the last mentioned, while the tarsus is also markedly stouter. My example was obtained at Newgala.
3. *Pernis cristatus.* Observed at Panawa and Bargura
4. *Spilornis cheela.* Observed at the base of the Monaragala hills, at Guruhela, Etmole, Panawa, and near Kebilitte.
5. *Haliætus leucogaster.* Observed at Panawa, Okanda, Lahugala, and Kumuna.
6. *Haliastur indus.* Common at Panawa and at Bargura.
7. *Falco peregrinus.* Nesting in the eastern cliff of "Westminster Abbey."

8: Spinal D-8 (ca. 1920) 1945 AX8 Vedda AX8
Gypsies E15
Ceylon

with muscular grace, performed the flower dance to the Paradeniya god for the favour of crops.

The women of Kadiniyaya slunk into their hovels at sight of us. A man sat scraping the hair off a girl's scalp with a blunt knife; another was muttering a spell over some lime juice for a fevered wretch. Swarming blue-bottles and a most unholy odour led to the discovery, in a covered hole, of putrid sambur entrails awaiting the pot; like civilised epicures they apparently fancied their game high!

Wadinagala, the southern Friar's Hood (the mountain that rose to Buddha's bidding), towered before us as we lay encamped in the picturesque little village of Landegama. Here we learnt that a company of gipsies, some fifty strong, had preceded us. These forest gangs, unlike those of the road, are nomadic shepherds, pasturing their herds in the jungle plains. They hunt the sambur with dogs and javelin. Approaching coastal towns from time to time they barter their cattle, and are on the whole fairly prosperous. But a gipsy is a gipsy the world over, faithful to traditions of snake-craft and beggary, and these are no exception, plying their trade among the poor villagers with an eye to a handful of grain or vegetables. Sooner or later we hoped to meet them, but for the present all the evidence we had of them were abandoned hearths and a helpless pup they had heartlessly abandoned.

At Landegama was a hunter who entertained us far into the night with jungle tales. He described to us how leopards caught monkeys. The animal climbs a tree in the line of feeding langurs, and waits concealed. When one of them comes near enough he springs on it and both fall to the ground. Should the attempt fail, the leopard gives forth a series of fearful growls and rushes hither and thither making great commotion; then suddenly becomes quiet and hides. Inquisitiveness is the monkeys' undoing; at first, uttering their cries of rage and terror, the 'ah-he-hik' so familiar to hunters, they look for him from secure heights; but not seeing him they become bolder and bolder and come down lower and lower; until eventually, one pays the price of his foolhardiness.

Wadinagala village, singularly enough, lies farther from the rock of that name than Landegama which nestles at its foot. Here was a medley of huts well illustrating the various types prevalent in the *Vanni*. The roofs of all were *illuk*-thatched; but the walls were various: a few were made of mud, some of wattle and bast, others of wattle and maize sheaths or of leafy twigs; while most had two or more of these combined.

A sudden shower, that caught us as we rested on the banks of the Palang Oya, proved the harbinger of many wet days to come. That evening we entered Kokunahare in the pelting rain, our clothes, bedding and food deplorably drenched. Rushing into the first hut we found we ousted its occupants with gentle persuasion. Cooking was out of the question; but our ever-ready lunch basket provided a menu of tongue, fruit salad, biscuits and cheese, and a thermos-flaskful of hot tea. What shifts the shivering carriers made for food or sleep we had not the courage to inquire.